3/15/70

Dear Howard (ccDick),

Urlet 3/12 and enclosures (clips returned herewith) arrived yesterday. I have already addressed myself to your corresponding with Lifton. I think it is wrong, counterproductive, and may well lead to experiences for which you are not yet prepared. Others, with much more experience in life and with strange characters, also intelligent, have found any relstionship with him painful, traumatic experiences.

I have not yet read your phone Fil interview but will when I can concentrate on it. You did not so request, but I will consider it confidential, not for any use. I will keep it in a separate file. So far as seeing him is concerned, that will have to be when it can be, and if it is not before May, that is not so far away. Iw will have to file a suit in Wilmington against a distributor who owes me several hundred dollars, and after it is filed I'll have to be there again when it is heard, so perhaps this can still be accomplished without a separate trip. If you will stop and think about it, perhaps you will reach conclusions similar to mine about what he was really saying when he said he saw certain things. Does he not give us a clue as to where they are? I think this potentially valuable. I expect that I will be filing a suit on the raw materials of the panel report, unless I am given access to them, probably acting as my own lawyer in this one. I am waiting to hear further from DJ on this.

Speaking of suits, you and Dick will be getting from Bud's office copies of the complaint I filed Wednesday, against Justice and State, on the Ray affidavits. If either of you has no use for the complaint, I have few spare copies and would prefer that you return rather than throw away. However, they are for you to keep if you want. I do not need the return of the press release. It was almost totally suppressed, rather a disappointment.

Fisher's March 9 is subject to the interpretation you give it, but I think that is straining it a bit and would be untenable in the absence of other evidence he was the man in charge. However, it is quite a revelation on his own concept of the responsibilities of a forensic pathologist-not to explain what happened, not to be thorough, complete, not to answer all answerable questions, not to make the historical record that was the alleged purpose, etc. It serves an added value to me in that he said their function was for the AG, which Justice is not pretending to deny. Of course, this is spurious and there is ample to refute it, which is probably the reason Rolapps has been so long in getting back to me, but each straw helps that much when the camel has so strong a back. You will get two letters from Fisher to me (probably no more, for I think he's had about as much as he can take). You have my letters to him. I think it also significant that no other member of either panel has responded in any way and that the law member has been silent, too.

Although your letter says to keep the Specter clips, one of them asks their return, since I have. I also do not need them.

I now note that Dick sent Newcomb and Lifton your Specter interview. I regret Dick has not learned from the experience of others with regard to these two and the strange love/hate feelings Fred has to the dominating Lifton. I also add that I am, to this day, not aware of a single responsible work they have produced that is solid. They are wild as they can be, both sick in different ways, and are, despite any caution, capable of the gorssest misuse of anything the lay their hands on. In addition, Lifton has been close to Liebeler, has acted as Liebeler's agent, has lied about this -has hurt us this way.

Your Altgens memo: Kellerman is absolutely solid on this point of spidering. Had these people not been torn apart by the crisis they faced, I think they would have thought of taking a picture at the hospital, for possible evidentiary use.

Without checking on your conclusions, I am prepared to agree because of my complete lack of trust in Tink and because I had this same nothing years ago but could reach no definite conclusion on the basis of the photos I then had available. I also think someone else believed this way but I do not now recall who. I think it was a woman in Kansas with whom I then had extensive correspondence. I think if you can carry this forward you should. I suggest if you can make tracings of the cracks at various identifiable times that would be helpful. This also is the most elemental police work. I suggest that if you do any tracing , that is, of evidence rather than the cracks, you be alert to any indications the FBI was aware of this. As my memo on it should indicate, I may have a relationship with the Secret Service in the future in which theyxwmight be interested in this kind of very comprehensible thing, so if you ever round it all off, I'd like a copy of any memo you might do on it. Assume it is correct, how do you then regard the sequence of things? And a caution: try and eliminate other possibilities as the cause of what you see, for example, a reflection, or something the driverm might have had there. Try and consider all possibilities, whether or not probabilities. If you agree with me and I think Dick, that there is no evidence any of the firing was done with the IRC rifle (whether or not it was), you might want to consider that the car really was washed at the hospital. I now know this to be a fact. I suspected it in WW, knew there was a bucket of bloody water near it before I did WWII. There now is no doubt.

I am getting interested in a narrow aspect of the Rap Brown case. If there is a trial, that will not interest me. I am interested in the bombing and the official investigation, esp. the FBI's. So, if your local papers have any stories by their own correspondents, from either Washington or Maryland, I'd appreciate copies of them. Hoover is up to his old tricks.

Best,

Harold